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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

**INFORMATION REPORT**

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Construction in Moscow

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2. Approximately five kms southwest of the center of the City of Moscow, the new and very large Lomonosov University is being constructed. It is a 26 story building which [ ] in April 1952 [ ] was [ ] more than half completed. It is scheduled to be completed this year. It will house the departments of biology, physics, chemistry and astronomy. The astronomy department will have the left wing of the building in the rear as seen from the front. The old Astronomical Institute is the Sternberg Astronomical Institute which is in the city proper and looks extremely old-fashioned. It will be vacated when later this year the astronomers move to the new university location. In addition, there is a new observatory under construction some 25 kms outside of Moscow for the observational work that cannot be done in the city. Prof Dr Boris Kukarkin will be the director of this observatory.

[ ] There are 93 graduate students in astronomy at the Moscow University. [ ] comment: This is more than twice the number of graduate students in the entire US.

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3. As is well known, Leningrad was heavily damaged during WW II but little damage is visible now. The rebuilding program has been on a gigantic scale. The principal Soviet observatory at Pulkovo, southwest of Leningrad, was in the direct firing line during the siege of the city and was utterly destroyed. The main building has now been rebuilt and a hotel with 60 rooms for visiting scientists has been constructed nearby. Houses are currently being built for the permanent staff on the observatory. The large refractor was destroyed, although its lens was probably saved. It has not been fully restored. Several smaller, modern telescopes have gone up in separate buildings scattered over the large grounds. Some of the equipment was made by Zeiss of Germany, and some in the large optical shops of Leningrad. The Director of the Observatory, Professor Michailov (fnu) is an excellent organizer and a dynamic man, impatient with the progress which is really quite satisfactory. [REDACTED]

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4. Crimea. The observatory at Simeis was looted by the Wehrmacht in 1943 and the principal instruments carted off to Potsdam, Germany. The library was also completely moved to Germany but has now been returned and the observatory has been fully re-equipped, partly with telescopes taken from Babelsberg - Berlin. The fine atlas prepared by Dr GA Shajn of emission nebulae, was obtained at the Simeis Observatory [REDACTED] Simeis has a coronagraph of high optical quality made at the Leningrad optical plant. The site of the observatory is not too good, however, since it is close to the sea and the sky is generally hazy and heavy with clouds. A new site has been chosen due north of the Simeis Observatory in the center of the Crimean Peninsula. Apparently it was merely picked as a point on the map in the middle of nowhere and with no attempt to spot it for convenience of access. Rather than build a road to it first and then build the observatory, both were started simultaneously. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] greatly impressed with the enormous effort which is being put into the science of astronomy in the USSR. [REDACTED] the average scientific level at present is of "B" grade, with variations from "A" to "C". However, it promises soon to be of "A" level provided good use is made of the very extensive facilities now being created within the USSR, and provided proper use is made of the very large number of students who are being trained in the universities. The general education of the Soviet astronomy student appears roughly on a par with US education, judging from the courses they are given, the ability of the people who give them, and the number of young Soviet astronomers. The Soviets do a great deal of translating of US and UK papers and books on astronomy. [REDACTED]

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